

*Canadian Policy on Broadcasting*

and such an individual and, if the minister has been aware of them for the past two years, why did she fail to inform the house?

Of course, Mr. Speaker, I am not here to bestow my blessing on the C.B.C.

I know that, at the C.B.C., there are, on some programs, much more left-wingers than middle-of-the-road men and right-wingers, that is quite clear. One just has to watch C.B.C. programs. For instance, after the separatist candidate Bourgault had run in the riding of Duplessis and had been turned down by the people of that electoral district, the C.B.C. made a film about some of his statements in the riding and Mr. Bourgault took advantage of that propaganda provided to him by the C.B.C. to try his separatist ideas on the French people served by the C.B.C. network, that is about 5 million people.

I say that is not in order. That man had been defeated; in my opinion, he was not entitled to service from the C.B.C. which showed a film such as the one we saw in June, about his separatist ideas.

Another personality, another separatist, Mr. Speaker, who often appears on television, is Mr. René Lévesque, a friend of our friends opposite, who has often extolled a separatist thesis: the sovereignty of Quebec within an economic alliance with the rest of Canada. Balderdash. But Mr. René Lévesque still has a contract with the C.B.C. Since he was defeated as a minister, that is since 1966, he receives fees out of the taxpayers' money. Thanks to that contract for the program "Public Eye", Mr. Lévesque can indulge in his separatist propaganda on the C.B.C. without of course, admitting it frankly. But everybody knows that actually Mr. Lévesque has shown his true face.

[English]

**Mr. Mackasey:** Did the hon. member ever think—

[Translation]

**Mr. Asselin (Charlevoix):** In French, please.

**Mr. Mackasey:** —Yes, with pleasure. Has the hon. member for Charlevoix ever heard Mr. Lévesque make propaganda for the separatist movement on the program "Public Eye?"

**Mr. Asselin (Charlevoix):** The hon. member knows very well that Mr. Lévesque had, for a long time, been an influent member of the Lesage government, and that even while he

[Mr. Asselin (Charlevoix).]

was minister of natural resources, he advocated the separation of Quebec. I hope I am not telling him anything new when I say that nor when I state that the C.B.C. thought it advisable to give him a program and to send him to Viet Nam to interview people. Information is that it cost \$32,000 to the Canadian taxpayers to send Mr. Lévesque and the C.B.C. team to interview people in Viet Nam.

I feel the C.B.C. is not beyond blame in that respect. That is why I say to the minister that to be fair to the management and the employees of the C.B.C. she or the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson), should state clearly the charges against that crown corporation.

**Mr. Mackasey:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has not answered my question. Has he ever heard Mr. Lévesque indulging in propaganda for the separatist movement on television? That is the question I asked.

**Mr. Asselin (Charlevoix):** I answered perfectly. It is obvious that when Mr. Lévesque was a minister of the crown in Quebec he could not get paid for his appearances on C.B.C. programs. The hon. member can well understand that. But the minute he lost his portfolio, the C.B.C. hired him, gave him a contract, because it was known that he could spread his doctrine of a sovereign Quebec within an economic union with the rest of Canada.

**Mr. Béchard:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I cannot accept that a member of this house should, for strictly electoral purposes, use the fact that the present president of the C.B.C. is a French Canadian to take offence with the stand and the statement of the Secretary of State and then enumerate to us a series of incidents against which he protests, namely Mr. Bourgault's appearance on TV and that of Mr. René Lévesque, who advocates separatism. What does his attitude mean, except that he approves the recent statement by the hon. Secretary of State of Canada.

**Mr. Asselin (Charlevoix):** I cannot approve the recent statement by the parliamentary secretary to the Secretary of State, because we haven't got the necessary factors to judge. The Secretary of State would like to say to us: Here is an unfounded statement which you must accept. I say that we, the representatives of the people, cannot accept an unfounded statement by the Secretary of State. We need evidence. We need information in order to judge quite objectively; this is why